Numb. 193

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

Qui didicit Patriæ quid debeat, & quid Amicis,
Quo ſit amore Parens, quo Frater amandus, & Hoſpes
Scribere Perſonæ ſcit Convenientia cuiq; Hor.

From *Saturday July* 1. to *Tueſday July* 4. 1710.

Will's Coffee-houſe, July 3.

I HAVE of late received many Epiſtles, wherein the Writers treat me as a mercenary Perſon, for ſome late Hints concerning Matters which they think I ſhould not have touched upon but for ſordid Conſiderations. It is apparent that my Motive could not be of that Kind; for when a Man declares himſelf openly on one Side, that Party will take no more Notice of him, becauſe he is ſure; and the Set of Men whom he declares againſt, for the ſame Reaſon are violent againſt him. Thus it is Folly in a Plain-Dealer to expect that either his Friends will reward him, or his Enemies forgive him. For which Reaſon I thought it was the ſhorteſt Way to Impartiality to put my ſelf beyond further Hopes or Fears, by declaring my ſelf, at a Time when the Diſpute is not about Perſons and Parties, but Things and Cauſes. To relieve my ſelf from the Vexation which naturally attends ſuch Reflections, I came hither this Evening to give my Thoughts quite a new Turn, and converſe with Men of Pleaſure and Wit, rather than thoſe of Buſineſs and Intrigue. I had hardly entered the Room when I was accoſted by Mr. *Thomas Dogget*, who deſired my Favour in Relation to the Play which was to be acted for his Benefit on *Thurſday*. He pleaſed me in ſaying it was *The Old Batcheler*, in which Comedy there is a neceſſary Circumſtance obſerved by the Author, which moſt other Poets either overlook, or do not underſtand; that is to ſay, the Diſtinction of Characters. It is very ordinary with Writers to indulge a certain Modeſty of believing all Men as witty as themſelves, and making all the Perſons of the Play ſpeak the Sentiments of the Author, without any Manner of Reſpect to the Age, Fortune, or Quality of him that is on the Stage. Ladies talk like Rakes, and Footmen make Similes. But this Writer knows Men, which makes his Plays reaſonable Entertainments, while the Scenes of moſt others are like the Tunes between the Acts. They are perhaps agreeable Sounds, but they have no Idea's affixed to them. *Dogget* thanked me for my Viſit to him in the Winter; and after his comick Manner, ſpoke his Requeſt with ſo arch a Leer, that I promiſed the Drole I would ſpeak to all my Acquaintance to be at his Play.

Whatever the World may think of the Actors, whether it be that their Parts have an Effect on their Lives, or whatever it is, you ſee a wonderful Benevolence among them towards the Intereſts and Neceſſities of each other. *Dogget* therefore would not let me go, without delivering me a Letter from poor old *Downes* the Prompter, wherein that Retainer to the Theatre deſires my Advice and Aſſiſtance in a Matter of Concern to him. I have ſent him my private Opinion for his Conduct; but the Stage and the State-Affairs being ſo much canvaſſed by Parties and Factions, I ſhall for ſome Time hereafter take Leave of Subjects which relate to either of them, and employ my Cares in the Conſideration of Matters which regard that Part of Mankind who live without intereſting themſelves with the Troubles or Pleaſures of either. However, for a meer Notion of the preſent Poſture of the Stage, I ſhall give you the Letter at large, as follows:

'*Honoured Sir*, *July* 1. 1710.

'FInding by divers of your late Papers, that you are a Friend to the Profeſſion of which I was many Years an unworthy Member, I the rather make bold to crave your Advice touching a Propoſal that has been lately made me, of coming again into Buſineſs, and the Sub-Adminiſtration of Stage-Affairs. I have from my Youth been bred up behind the Curtain, and been a Prompter from the Time of the Reſtoration. I have ſeen many Changes, as well of Scenes as of Actors, and have known Men within my Remembrance arrive to the higheſt Dignities of the Theatre, who made their Entrance in the Quality of Mutes, Joint-Stools, Flower-Pots, and Tapeſtry-Hangings. It cannot be unknown to the Nobility and Gentry, that a Gentleman of the Inns of Court, and a deep Intriguer, had ſome Time ſince worked himſelf into the ſole Management and Direction of the Theatre. Nor is it leſs notorious, that his reſtleſs Ambition and ſubtle Machinations did manifeſtly tend to the Extirpation of the good old *Britiſh* Actors, and the Introduction of Foreign Pretenders, ſuch as Harlequins, *French* Dancers, and *Roman* Singers; which, tho' they impove-

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'riſhed the Proprietors, and impoſed on the Auditence, were for ſome Time tolerated, by Reaſon of his dexterous Inſinuations, which prevailed upon a few deluded Women, eſpecially the Vizard-Masks, to believe that the Stage was in Danger. But his Schemes were ſoon expoſed, and the Great Ones that ſupported him withdrawing their Favour, he made his *Exit*, and remained for a Seaſon in Obſcurity. During this Retreat, the Machiavilian was not idle, but ſecretly fomented Diviſions, and wrought over to his Side ſome of the inferior Actors, reſerving a Trap-Door to himſelf, to which only he had a Key. This Entrance ſecured, this cunning Perſon, to compleat his Company, bethought himſelf of calling in the moſt eminent Strollers from all Parts of the Kingdom. I have ſeen them all ranged together behind the Scenes; but they are many of them Perſons that never trod the Stage before, and ſo very awkward and ungainly, that it is impoſſible to believe the Audience will bear them. He was looking over his Catalogue of Plays, and indeed picked up a good tolerable Set of grave Faces for Counſellors, to appear in the famous Scene of *Venice Preſerved*, when the Danger is over; but they being but meer Outſides, and the Actors having a great Mind to play *The Tempeſt*, there is not a Man of them when he is to perform any Thing above Dumb Show is capable of acting with a good Grace, ſo much as the Part of *Trincalo*. However, the Maſter perſiſts in his Deſign, and is fitting up the old Storm; but I am afraid he will not be able to procure able Sailors, or experienced Officers, for Love or Money.

'Beſides all this, when he comes to caſt the Parts, there is ſo great a Confuſion amongſt them for want of proper Actors, that for my Part I am wholly diſcouraged. The Play with which they deſign to open is, *The Duke and no Duke*; and they are ſo put to it, that the Maſter himſelf is to act the Conjurer; and they have no one for the General but honeſt *George Powell*.

'Now, Sir, they being ſo much at a Loſs for the *Dramatis Perſonæ*, *viz.* the Perſons to enact, and the whole Frame of the Houſe being deſigned to be altered, I deſire your Opinion, Whether you think it adviſable for me to undertake to prompt 'em? For tho' I can claſh Swords when they repreſent a Battle, and have yet Lungs enough left to huzza their Victories, I queſtion if I ſhould prompt 'em right, whether they would act accordingly. I am

Your Honour's moſt humble Servant,

J. Downes.

'*P. S.* Sir, ſince I writ this, I am credibly informed, that they deſign a new Houſe in *Lincolns-Inn-Fields*, near the Popiſh Chapel, to be ready by *Michaelmas* next, which indeed is but repairing an old one that has already failed. You know the honeſt Man who kept the Office is gone already.

Advertiſements.

*** On Monday next will be delivered to Subſcribers, by Charles Lillie, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, and J. Morphew near Stationers-hall, The Firſt Volume of the Lucubrations of Iſaac Bickerſtaff Eſq; in Octavo, on a fine Royal and Medium Papers. Reviſed and corrected by the Author.

And the ſame Day they will be publiſh'd in 12mo, being fitted for the Pocket, and printed on a neat Elzevir Letter, and good Paper.

Note, Thoſe already publiſhed are the ſpurious and incorrect Edition, ſeveral Times advertiſed againſt in this Paper; and all Buyers ſhall be informed how to diſtinguiſh the Genu'n from the Counterfeit Copy.

Morning-Gowns for Men and Women, of Silk, Stuff, and Callicoes (being the Goods of Perſons that failed) which were to be diſpoſed of at the Olive-Tree and Still, are now to be ſold at the Golden Sugar-Loaf up one Pair of Stairs, over-againſt the Horſe at Charing-Croſs; with a freſh Parcel at very low Rates, the Price being ſet on each Gown.

FOR Sale by the Candle, on Thurſday next the 6th Inſtant, at Lloyd's Coffee-houſe in Lombard-ſtreet, at 6 in the Afternoon, (only one Cask in a Lot) 20 Pipes of new excellent White (and 6 Pipes of new Red deep and bright) Lisbon Wines, near, an entire Parcel juſt landed; now in a Cellar on Wiggin's Key, between Billingſgate and the Cuſtom-houſe; 14 Pipes of new Canary, near, and lately landed, in a Warehouſe fronting the Thames, on Galley-Key, between the Cuſtom-houſe and Tower-Dock; 7 Puncheons of very good Bourdeaux Fr. Brandy, near, an entire Parcel, lately imported from Guernſey, lying under a Barber's Shop in Eaſtcheap near the Qu.'s Weigh-houſe; 40 half Cheſts of new Red Florence Wine, lately landed out of the Greyhound, now in a Cellar near the Ipſwich Arms Inn in Cullum-ſtreet by Fenchurch-ſtreet: 9 whole Cheſts of new Red Florence Wine, in a Cellar under Mr. Hatſell's in St. Clement's-lane, between Lombard-ſtreet and Cannon-ſtreet. All the aforeſaid Wines and Brandy are to be taſted this Day and to Morrow from 7 to 1, and from 2 to 7, and all Thurſday till the Hour of Sale. To be ſold by T. Tomkins, Broker, in Crutched-Fryars.

FOR Sale by the Candle, on Friday next the 7th Inſtant, at Lloyd's Coffee-houſe in Lombard-ſtreet, at 6 in the Afternoon, about 90 Cask, viz. Pipes, Hogſheads, and Quarter Cask, (only one Cask in a Lot) of new excellent Maderas Wine, of the true Flavour, neat, an entire Cargo, juſt landed; now in Cellars at Cox-Key, between London-Bridge and Billingſgate, and may be taſted to Morrow and Thurſday from 7 to 1, and from 2 to 7, and all Friday till the Hour of Sale. To be ſold by Tho. Tomkins, Broker, in Crutched-Fryars.

*** This Day is publiſh'd, The compleat Sheriff; wherein is ſet forth his Office and Authority, with Directions how and in what Manner to execute the ſame, and the Reſolution of the Judges in ſeveral late Caſes relating thereunto. The 2d Edition, with large Additions. In 8vo. Legal Proviſions for the Poor; or, A Treatiſe of the Common and Statute Laws concerning the Poor, either as to Relief, Settlement, or Puniſhment. In 12mo. Tenants Law, or the Law of Landlords, Tenants, and Farmers. In 12mo. The 5th Edition, with large Additions. The new Retorna Brevium; wherein is contained the lateſt Retorns of Writs in the Court of Chancery, Queen's-Bench and Exchequer. In 8vo. All printed for J. Walthoe in the Temple Cloyſters.

*** This Day is publiſh'd, The Ogling Poſt, or News for the Batchelors; with a Map of Cupid's Dominions. And next Saturday will be publiſhed, The Proverbial Poſt, or a Poetical Deſcant upon Engliſh Proverbs; a Work never attempted before in Verſe. To be continued Weekly, by a Society of Poets. Theſe Two Poſts are Two of thoſe 3000 that are publiſhed every Tueſday and Saturday, to furniſh out Dunton's Oracle, till 'tis made an univerſal Entertainment. To each Poſt is added, The Caſuiſtical Poſt, or Athenian Mercury, reſolving all nice and curious Queſtions. Price 1 d. And will be continued at that Price at the Requeſt of ſeveral Queriſts that ſend them by the General Poſt. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall: Where the Firſt Volume, with a general Title, Preface, and Index, may be had in few Days

*** Juſt publiſh'd, A compleat Treatiſe of the Stone and Gravel; comprising its own Origin, Symptoms, beſt Way of Eaſing, true Method of Cutting, and divers remarkable Hiſtories of curing many cruelly afflicted Patients; with an ample Diſcourſe on Lithontriptick, or Stone-breaking Medicines. The whole illuſtrated with near 30 proper Figures of the Operation and Deſcriptions on Copper Plates, of many uncommon Stones taken from Perſons, cut by the Author and others; abſolutely neceſſary to be read by Perſons labouring under that dangerous and dreadful Diſeaſe, or the Suſpicion thereof. By John Greenfield, M. D. of the College of Phyſicians, London. Printed for R. Smith under the Royal-Exchange, and B. Lintott at the Croſs-Keys between the Two Temple-Gates, Fleetſtreet. Price 5 s.

THis is to give Notice, That the Sale of Goods by Way of Tickets, at 2 s. per Ticker, that was Mr. Lereeves, Jeweller, at the Two Black Poſts in Church-ſtreet St. Ann, Soho, will be drawn on Thurſday the 20th Inſtant, at the Two Golden Balls, a Dancing-School, the upper End of Bow-ſtreet, Covent-Garden, there being but few Tickets to be delivered.

THE niceſt Spaniſh Blacking for Gentlemen's Shoes ever inveſted or uſed, making them look like new, neither daubing the Hands or Stockings, nor having the noiſom Stink of Size. All that uſe it admire it. Sold only at Mr. Hannam's, a Toy-ſhop, at the Three Angels near Foſter-Lane in Cheapſide, at 2 s. 6d. a Pot.

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